

Raymond Source Water Protection Workshop Notes 6/6/18

General Notes

- If you are a member of association of Washington Cities, there is funding available to you in the insurance pool for some source water protection work
- Using words like “protecting the watershed” can isolate potential partners. Recommendation is to talk in terms of managing or conserving resources. Be mindful that many communities and potential partnering agencies are closely tied to natural resource-based industries and they will be resistant to initiatives that are perceived as negatively impacting local industry.
- It was noted that entities without dollars to contribute to project can still be valuable partners. One role that entities like water providers can play is that of a funds recipient/administrator. Some pots of money are available to water providers that are not available to, for example to NGOs. Partnerships also strengthen applications. Applications that come in sponsored by NGOs, land managers and water providers can be extremely competitive.
- The water providers in attendance offers to come to other’s places to inspect and share knowledge.
- Another way to contribute to projects/restoration is through sharing resources. Attendees were encouraged to reach out to their neighbors when they have permits/equipment. See if equipment can be shared etc. Work together to save time and money
- It was noted that there may be opportunities related to the cannery operation
- There is a need for education and outreach to land owners adjacent to water supply

Notes from Willapa Group

Priorities & Concerns?

- Turbidity
- Increases in rainfall
 - State land & runoff
- Seasonal color change in the water
- Higher chlorine demands in the fall
- Increased organic activity in the fall and spring
- Land management practices can affect water quality
- How do we keep the water cleaner as it enters the stream (proactive, not reactive)
- There is a lack of large wood structure in the streams to slow down the water flow
- Lack of shade and hot temperatures during the summer months
- Sediment from roads and washouts may be an issue, but roads tend not to register as an issue with the local population. If they are an issue, that could be a point for education and outreach
- Peninsula Fresh water prism – loss of freshwater from withdrawal

- Septic systems are area dependent of ocean park
- Shellfish growers contribute to protection
- Shellfish protection areas

Ideas & Solutions

- Try to anticipate the flow of water (proactive, not reactive)
- Pay close attention to the shellfish industry to know what the water quality is
- Add back some of the structures we would have naturally, replace large wood in streams
- Plant riparian areas for shade, cooler water uses less chlorine
- Careful of tree placement in stream to prevent surface water intake damage
- There are plenty of active beavers in the area, plant more hooker willow to keep them busy (quick grower)
- Nutria is invasive, partner with counties to remove them
- Peninsula wide wastewater system
- Have plans – but need money for education for kids, new residents and infrastructure owners about water and natural resources

Information needs for Habitat & Water Quality

- Updating information: i.e. culvert inventory
- Modeling shows less snow pack. More rain in coastal range = more people moving in.
- There is a lack of funding sources for this area
- Recreation area impacts caused by visitors 8-10 tons of garbage on beaches on the 4th of July
- This area is unique and values that it's not like other places
- Road/spill issues? Narrow bridges
- Logging around watershed – sediment, spills, containment is required

Spill/Emergency Notification

- Tsunami discussion has been frequent and this is where funding is. Needs to be a discussion beyond tsunami
- Cash for purchase of timber rights/watershed control can help fish & water supply
- Culvert replacement – Watershed DOT does not have money and not all are noted as barriers under all circumstances. Water flow/high/low tide captured in culvert survey

Partnerships

- Existing: Conservation Dist. does not include cities/towns
- They must request to join Conservation Dist.
- Who says too much debris – Conservation Dist. can give a professional opinion
- Conservation Dist. is non-regulating, it is volunteer based solutions (the hub) by bringing people together, and they partner with other companies and Tribes.

Needs

- Cash
- Education for land owners about supply
- Cooperation from stakeholders & landowners & regulators
- We need to get out of our “silos” and work across boundaries
- Accountability for chemical spray: pest/herb agencies vs private
- Budget for testing for chemicals in the water
- Follow up testing
- Testing for the best type used for location
- It was noted that it is possible to have sections of road designated as no spray zones, but the onus is on the landowner to take the initiative
- Protect shellfish growers/bay ecology
- F.P.O – Retirement = Loss of institutional knowledge. Need technically prepared folks coming in.
- Grays Harbor College – Looking to have training to meet needs
- Need to let the need be known

Notes from Lower Chehalis Group

Priorities & Issues

- City-owned watershed – Forestry = Cash for infrastructure. There can be tension where measures for water quality result in harvest restrictions.
- Future sustainability
- Aberdeen: Silt/sediment (dam/logging issue)
- Salmon: Water quality, fish passage, temperatures (cold “pockets”)
- Restoration of deteriorated stream corridors
- Partnerships: Habitat work schedule (online restoration project database) – Resource “Who’s doing what”
- Private land access can be an issue – Relationship building through Conservation Districts is key
- Messaging is key. Need to speak to funder’s interests (or other partners/property owners). Make sure you are speaking their language.
- Ecosystems services analysis = cost/benefit good data for decision making
- Wan to move to a place where we are proactive not reactive
- Implementation
- Money
- Data
- Monitoring
- Education
- There can be a disconnect between staff (as regulatory implementers) & elected officials (as decision makers). Partnerships can help bridge that gap.

- “New School” foresters and progressive landowners can offer an opportunity to revisit land management strategies to find win/win prescriptions that provide economic benefit while protecting the water supply.

Off-Site Tour Raymond 6/6/18

- Programs in place to flush in one direction continuously – Making a point to do it even when shorthanded is very important
- Rosemont Testers works amazingly – Just be sure to clean and calibrate them regularly
- East Point/Pacific – Water storage to recycle their own water at their site. Increase in water quality, better for them financially, less water waste.